

350 Zitting Cisticola



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Male (05-V).

ZITTING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola juncidis*)

IDENTIFICATION

10-11 cm. Brown reddish upperparts; streaked dark; reddish rump; brownish wings with white band on secondaries; pale underparts; legs and bill pale brown.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** with black inside of upper mandible; lower mandible grey with black tip; head, mantle and scapulars strongly streaked black. Non **breeding male** and **female** with pink inside of upper mandible (sometimes dark on sides); lower mandible pinkish; head, mantle and scapulars diffused streaked black. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 56 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 46 mm. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. **Postjuvenile** moult is very variable: early hatching birds can have a complete **postjuvenile** moult; late hatching birds or **1st year** birds breeding late summer usually have a partial **postjuvenile** moult, retaining a variable number of outer primaries. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult including body feathers, some or all wing coverts and tail, retaining sometimes the outer tail feathers.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; tail feathers, except for central pair, with pale ochre tips.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring only in birds with partial moult, which have differences between fresh moulted feathers and worn juvenile retained. **CAUTION:** if **postjuvenile** moult has been complete, then indistinguishable from **adults**.

Adult without moult limits; tail feathers, except for central pair, with off-white tips.

CAUTION: after **prebreeding** moult both types of age have moult limits.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, distributed in warmer areas of the Region.



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Female (17-V).

350 Zitting Cisticola



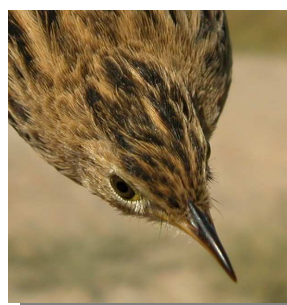
Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Pattern of head and colour of iris and bill. From top to bottom: adult male (05-V); 2nd year male (18-V); adult female (17-V); juvenile (20-VII).

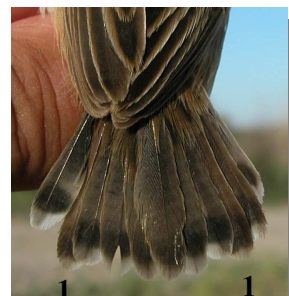
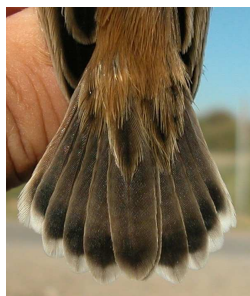


Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Colour inside of upper mandible: top left male (05-V); top right female (28-VI); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Crown pattern: top left male (05-V); top right female (17-V); left juvenile (20-VII).

350 Zitting Cisticola



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Breast pattern: top left male (05-V); top right female (17-V); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Pattern and wear of tail: top left male (05-V); top right 2nd year male (1 retained juvenile feathers) (18-V); left adult female (28-VI); bottom juvenile (20-VII).

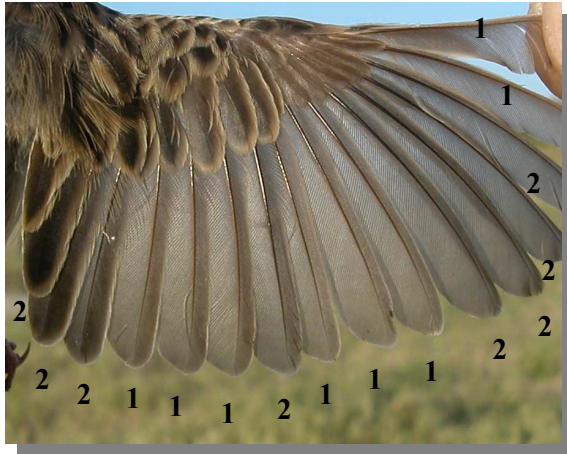


Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left male (05-V); top right female (17-V); left juvenile (20-VII).



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (05-V).

350 Zitting Cisticola



Zitting Cisticola. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather; 2 postjuvenile feather) (18-V).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. 1st year (02-IX).



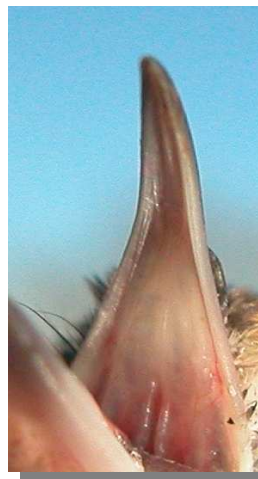
Zitting Cisticola. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (20-VII)



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Pattern of head and bill: top adult (25-X); bottom 1st year (02-IX).

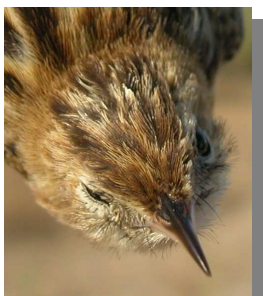
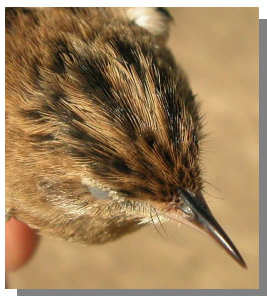


Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Adult (25-X).

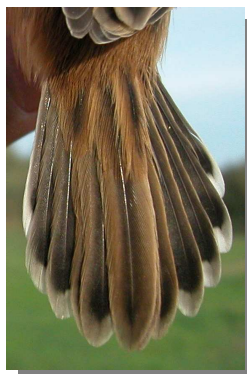


Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Colour inside of upper mandible: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).

350 Zitting Cisticola



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Crown pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



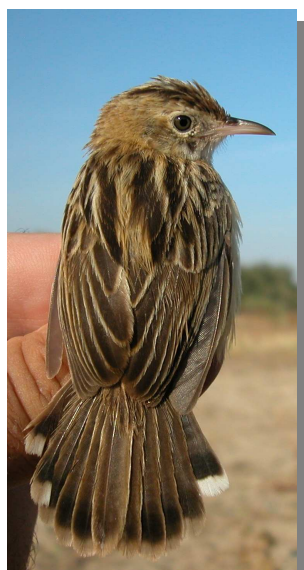
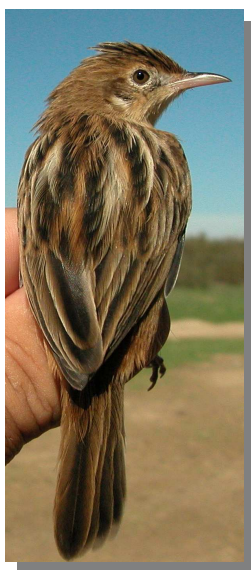
Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



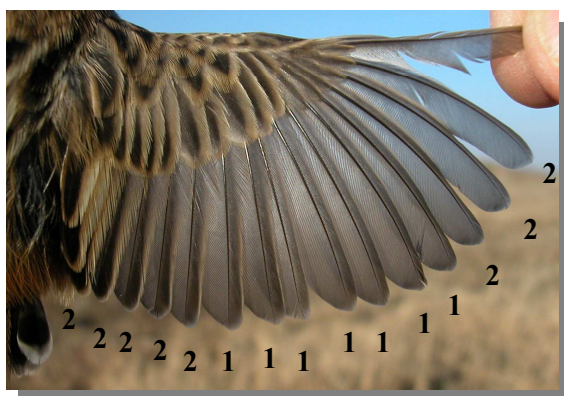
Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Adult/1st year with complete postjuvenile moult: pattern of wing (25-XII).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. Upperpart pattern: left adult (25-X); right 1st year (02-IX).



Zitting Cisticola. Autumn. 1st year with partial postjuvenile moult: pattern of wing (06-XI).